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Standing Comm. Oct. 10, 2007 Minutes

VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 10, 2007 MEETING Approved November 6, 2007

In attendance: Jane Howard, Joey Glushko, Andrew Fischer, Bruce Fitzsimmons, Clare Gordon, Elizabeth Karpati, Shannon Koenig, Annie LaCourt, Leslie Mayer, Brian Sullivan, Barbara Thornton.

The **minutes** of the September meeting were accepted as presented.

The meeting was devoted to planning the 2008 Census Survey.

- The 2007 survey was the first one processed by scanner, which involved some format constraints (questions limited to 4 pages, need for enough white space around answer dots). About 19% of households responded, even though it was not a self-mailer but had to be returned in an envelope.
- The deadline for the 2008 survey to the printer is December 10, 2007.
- Theme: Fiscal issues – “Beyond the Five-Year Plan.” It could build on the work done in the “financial summit” community meetings held earlier in the year. Suggestions:
 - Pie charts of current revenues and expense categories; ask how much each category should be increased if one paid \$100 more in taxes or cut for \$100 less in taxes.
 - Include enough explanation to allow for meaningful answers, e.g. define “regionalization.”
 - Questions should be asked in terms of “what is important to the community” rather than “what is important to you.”
 - Ask for comments on a separate sheet of paper or submitted electronically.
 - An extra meeting on the census survey will be held Tuesday, October 16, at 6 p.m.
- Shannon Koenig reported on the activities of **Sustainable Arlington**, which is focusing on: (1) Getting 150 households signed up for renewable energy (for an extra contribution) to earn solar panels for Arlington (probably for one of the schools). (2) Study circles built around a “low carbon footprint” workbook.
 A green vendor fair is also under consideration.